

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 4, 2013

Don Thompson, President and Chief Executive Officer  
McDonald's  
One McDonald's Plaza  
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We are writing to express our support for improving the wages and working conditions of front-line fast food workers in America. As you know, the median pay for front-line fast food workers is just \$8.69, with many jobs paying at or near the minimum wage. The impacts of low wages in the fast food industry are significant.

Sixty eight percent of fast food workers are the main wage earners in their families. Fast food industry jobs are much less likely than other jobs to provide health benefits. As a result, far too many hard-working families are being forced to depend on poverty-level wages just to make ends meet.

When wages become too low to sustain a living, taxpayers shoulder the burden of helping families with the use of public assistance programs. According to a recent report by the University of California-Berkley, more than half of front line fast food workers, including more than half of those that work over forty hours per week, earn so little they are forced to enroll their families in public assistance, costing taxpayers \$7 billion per year. Over time, high rates of poverty threaten the stability of our social safety net.

It does not have to be this way. While low wages and lack of benefits cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year, the seven publicly-traded fast food corporations collectively earned \$7.44 billion in profits; paid \$52.7 million to their highest-paid executives; and distributed \$7.7 billion in dividends and buybacks. Seven billion hard earned taxpayer dollars should not be used to subsidize some of the country's most profitable corporations, while millions of their employees are not paid enough to meet their most basic needs.

Paying fair wages and putting more spending money in the hands of consumers will strengthen our economy and put our nation on the path to greater prosperity for all.

We are proud to stand with the workers who continue to fight for an economy that works for everyone. Their inspirational courage to speak out for themselves, their families, and for the growing share of America's workforce whose pay is too low has captured America's attention. We urge you to work with them to find solutions to this moral and economic issue.

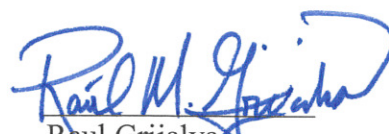
Sincerely,

  
Linda T. Sanchez

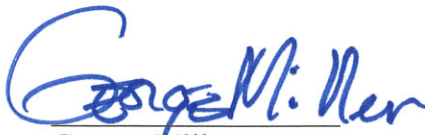
Member of Congress

  
Keith Ellison

Member of Congress

  
Raul Grijalva

Member of Congress



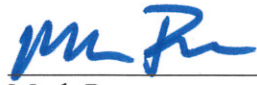
George Miller  
Member of Congress



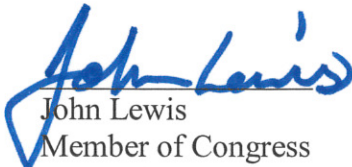
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



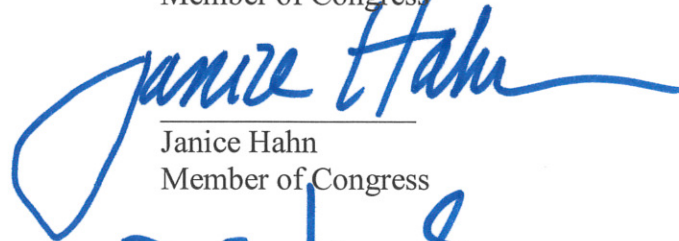
David Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



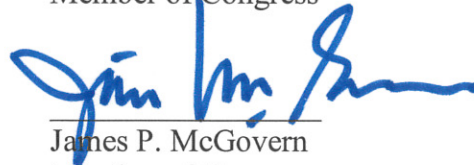
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



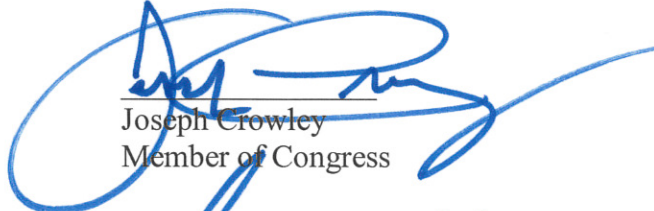
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress

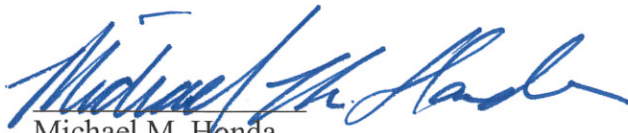


Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

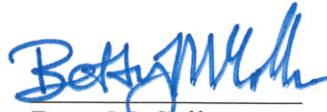


Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

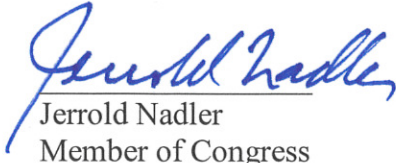




Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



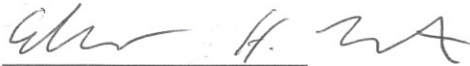
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



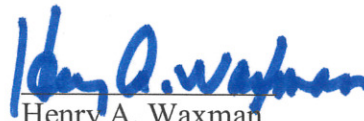
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



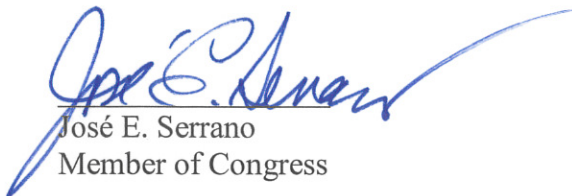
Shelia Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



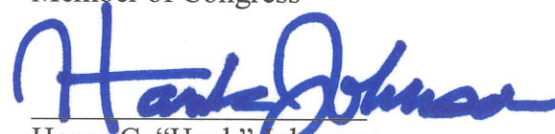
Al Green  
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress



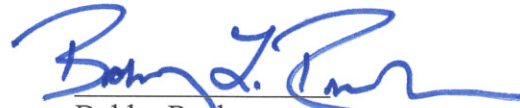
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress



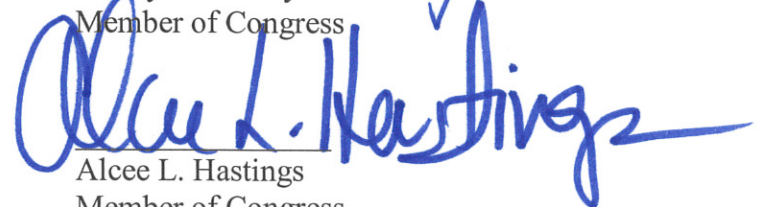
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



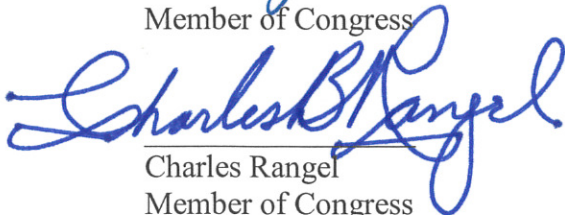
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



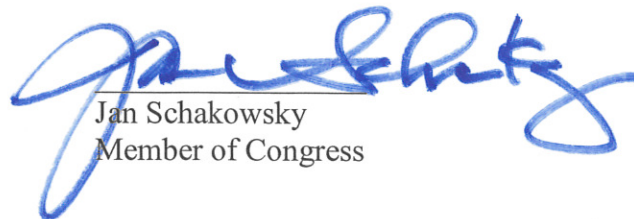
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



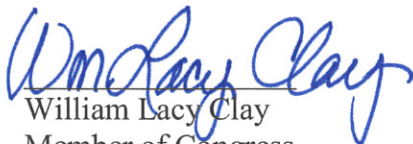
Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



William Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



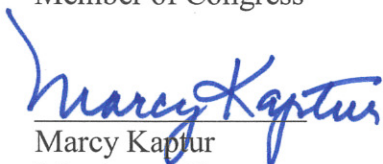
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



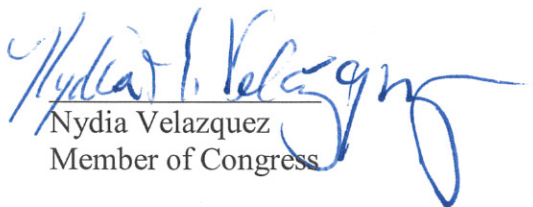
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



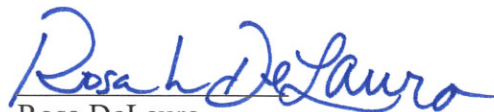
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



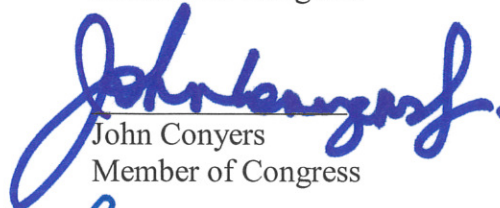
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



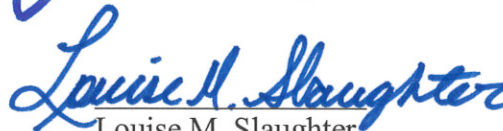
Nydia Velazquez  
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress



John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



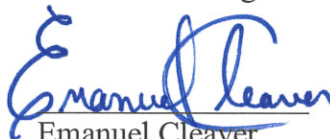
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress